BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 10-26* *July 2nd, 2010*

- **BC's population grows 1.6% during twelve months ending April 1st**
- **Restaurant receipts down 1.7% in April**
- **Forty-one percent of Canadians regularly use public transit**

Population

- **British Columbia's population was 4,510,858 on April 1st, 2010, an increase of 1.6% over the number a year earlier.** BC, together with Alberta (+1.6%), Saskatchewan (+1.6%), Yukon (+2.1%) and Nunavut (+2.9%) lead the country in terms of population growth. Canada's population expanded 1.9% during this period. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Net international migration (+12,323) was the largest source of new residents during the first quarter of 2010.** There was also a net inflow of people from other provinces, marking the fourth consecutive quarter of net interprovincial inflows. The province acquired nearly 13,946 new residents, 1,642 more than the number who left BC for other parts of Canada. BC drew migrants from all regions except Atlantic Canada, with Alberta (+542), Ontario (+434) and Saskatchewan (+218) being the biggest net donors.
Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Receipts at food services & drinking places in the province fell (-1.7% *seasonally adjusted*) in April as sales continued to settle back to more normal levels in the wake of the Olympics.** Receipts at food service establishments declined 2.5%, while drinking places saw a drop of 1.6%. Across Canada, receipts fell 1.0% as both drinking places (-1.4%), and food service establishments (-0.9%) recorded decreases. Seven provinces recorded lower sales in April.
Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- **In 2008, dating (non-spousal) violence accounted for approximately 7% of all police-reported violent crime in Canada.** The majority (80%) of victims of dating violence were women. However, between 2004 and 2008, the rate of police-reported dating violence increased more notably for men (+47%) than for women (+40%). About ten percent of male victims and one percent of female victims of dating violence involved same-sex dating relationships. Among teenagers (aged 15 to 19), the police-reported rate of dating violence experienced by females was ten times that for their male counterparts. Adolescent victims of police-reported dating violence were most often victimized by a suspect who was older.

  The types of offenses inflicted on both male and female spouses were largely similar. Major assault - assault involving weapons or the infliction of serious bodily harm – was the main exception, with roughly one-sixth (17%) of men reported a major assault compared to less than a tenth (9%) of women. Women, on the other hand were more likely be victims of sexual assault.
Data Source: S.C. Cat # 85-002-XIE

Public Transit

- **In 2007, two-thirds (68%) of Canadian households lived within five minutes of public transit, but just 41% of these households used this mode of transportation regularly.** Nearly three-quarters of households reported that they had not used public transit regularly because they had access to a car. Other reasons for not using public transit included inconvenient scheduling, living too close to their destination to need transit, or the service was too slow or too infrequent. Only 4% of households indicated that the cost of was a factor. On average, British Columbians

Report Canada Has Shown No Rush to Trade with Russia

Did you know...

A quarter (25%) of Canadians would choose to attend a fireworks display on Canada Day, while a third (33%) would prefer to spend the day relaxing at home. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

have more access than residents of every other province, with over three quarters (78%) having nearby transit in 2007. Approximately 42% of these residents took advantage of this proximity by taking transit on a regular basis. *Data Source: S.C. Cat # 16-002-XIE*

Air Travel

- **In 2009, Canadian air carriers reported a 5.4% drop-off in passenger volume compared to 2008, with the total number of enplaned/deplaned passengers dipping to 103 million.** The number of passengers travelling to international destinations other than the US saw an increase in scheduled travel, inching up 1.0% during the 12-month period. However, the volume of those travelling within Canada saw substantial decreases (-7.0%), and the transborder (Canada-US) sector also contracted (-6.3%). Canadian airports experienced an decrease in the number of flights arriving and departing (-1.2%) last year, and carriers noted a significant decline in cargo tonnage (-5.6%) transported by air.

Data Source: S.C. Cat # 51-203-XIE

Environmental Goods & Services

- **In 2008, sales derived from environmentally-related goods and services by Canadian businesses amounted to $4.1 billion in revenue.** The largest portion (40%) of revenues from environmental goods was generated through sales of machinery, equipment and products for renewable energy production, while in the services sector, revenues from environmental consulting services comprised the most (80%) of total sales.

  Businesses exported just over $1 billion worth of environmental goods and services in 2008, most of which (77%) was destined to the United States. About 2% went to Mexico, while the remainder was distributed among other international markets.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy faltered in April, as a seven-month-long expansion in real GDP came to an end.** Output in both the goods and service sectors was unchanged from the previous month. In the goods sector, utilities (-0.7%, *seasonally adjusted*) and manufacturing (-0.3%) experienced a downturn, while construction activity stalled (+0.1%). Among service-producing industries, retail trade (-1.7%) lost ground after surging ahead (+1.9%) in March. Accommodation & food services (-0.4%) contracted for a second straight month following an Olympic high (+2.0%) in February. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Tourism spending in Canada increased 1.3% in the first quarter.** The increase was driven mostly by international demand (+5.9%), but tourism spending by Canadian residents was also up (+0.3%). The Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics contributed to the national increase. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices were higher (+1.4%) this May than in the same month last year, marking the first year-over-year increase since February of 2009.** Rises in the price of petroleum & coal (+16.6%) and primary metal (+12.0%) products were the largest contributors to the overall increase. Prices for lumber & other wood (+6.4%) and chemicals (+4.2%) also continued to exert inflationary pressure. Canadian manufacturers of motor vehicles & other transport equipment (-5.6%) saw lower prices in May, which moderated the overall increase significantly.

  Prices for BC softwood lumber (+11.4%) remained above 2009 levels. Interior producers received substantially more (+15.8%) for their product than they had a year earlier, and those on the Coast saw prices climb (+1.4%) for the first time in 14 months.

  Raw material prices were up 6.4% in May, on the strength of higher prices for crude oil (+10.2%) and non-ferrous metals (+16.4%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Infoline Issue: 10-26
July 2nd, 2010

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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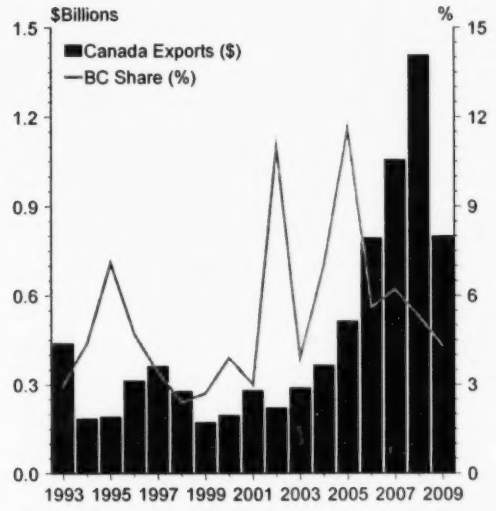
originally published in
Exports Issue 10-04

Canada Has Shown No Rush to Trade with Russia

According to a recent Canadian Senate Committee report, Canada has not realized its full potential in terms of trade and investment with Russia[1]. While trade and investment between the two countries has been rising, it still represents a small fraction of Canada's overall trade and investment. For example, in 2009, Russia ranked 25th as a destination for Canadian commodity exports with only 0.2% of goods exported from Canada destined for that country. With approximately 0.4% of Canadian imports originating in Russia, it ranked 24th as a source for imported goods into Canada.

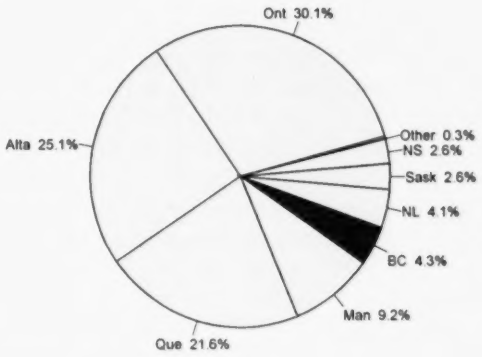
Although shipments have been rising, Canada still exports relatively little to Russia



Source: Statistics Canada

Russia was even less significant as a destination for exports from British Columbia, ranking 32nd with only 0.1% of the province's commodity exports shipped there. British Columbia ranked fifth among the provinces as a source of Canadian goods exports to Russia in 2009 with just over four percent of Canadian exports to that country originating in British Columbia.

Only a small portion of Canadian exports to Russia originates in British Columbia



Source: Statistics Canada

Ontario (30%), Alberta (25%) and Quebec (22%) were the main Canadian sources of exports to Russia. Manitoba (9%) also ranked ahead of British Columbia. The top Canadian exports to Russia in 2009 were swine meat and aircraft, both mainly from Ontario and Quebec. British Columbia's top exports were seafood and machinery and equipment used in the mining industry.

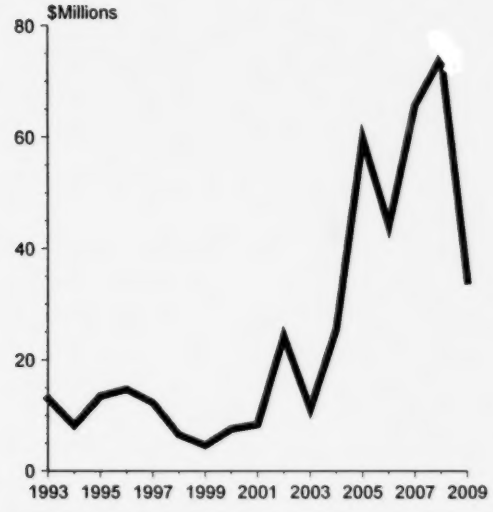
While BC's trade with Russia is still quite small, it has grown substantially in the last decade, rising from less than $15 million through the 1990s to a peak of $74 million in 2008, before plunging to only $34 million in 2009. While the global economic downturn likely was responsible for some of that decline, the Senate Committee report suggests that Russian protectionism was a large reason for the drop in Canadian shipments to Russia. In fact, the report asserts that the

[1] Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada and Russia: Building on Today's Successes for Tomorrow's Potential, March 2010.

combination of protectionism and "onerous bureaucratic processes" has prevented the two countries from fully realizing their mutual commercial potential:

Russian bureaucracy is not for the faint at heart and can certainly delay without an apparent rationale the pace at which business is carried out. In effect, the bureaucratic process is hampered by numerous regulations, onerous procedures, inconsistent application, ambiguity and lack of transparency[2].

BC exports to Russia climbed through most of the decade before slumping in 2009

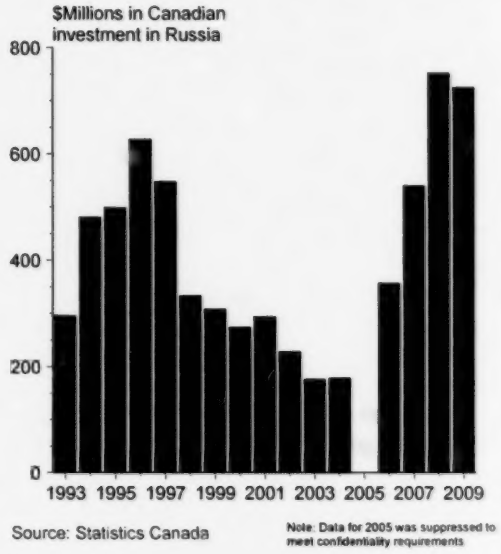


Source: Statistics Canada

In addition to protectionist sentiment and overarching bureaucracy, Russia also suffers from high levels of corruption. Transparency International ranked Russia 146th out of 180 in its Corruption Perception Index in 2009 with a score of 2.2 on a ten-point scale, where ten indicates no corruption and zero denotes complete corruption[3]. According to Transparency International's survey, the highest levels of corruption in Russia are found in the ranks of public officials and civil servants. The levels of corruption found in Russia make it a difficult place to do business and a risky place in which to invest.

On the positive side, the Russian government recognizes the problem and is taking steps to bring the corruption under control. It has also introduced new initiatives to encourage foreign investment.

Canadian investment in Russia has grown significantly over the last few years



Source: Statistics Canada

Note: Data for 2005 was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements

However, there is still relatively little Canadian foreign direct investment in Russia and even less Russian direct investment in Canada. In 2009, Canadians invested approximately $725 million in Russia, while Russians invested about half that in Canada. Nevertheless, these levels of investment are still far higher than those experienced early in the decade when Canadian foreign direct investment in Russia dipped to less than $200 million and there was practically no Russian investment in Canada.

[2] Senate Committee, p. 22.

[3] See: http://www.transparency.org

Given the size of the Russian economy, it has a lot of potential as a trade partner and a place in which to invest. The Senate report identifies a number of areas where there are opportunities for Canadian exporters and investors, including infrastructure development, transportation, agriculture, wood and paper, housing construction, green technologies and mining. However, Canadian companies will have to exercise caution and have a great deal of patience, taking a long-term view of the opportunities available in Russia. The high level of corruption and protectionism will likely discourage many and until Russia can deal with these internal problems, it is unlikely that we will see a large jump in trade and investment with that country.

Infoline

July 2, 2010
Issue 10–26

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,510.9	1.6
Canada	34,019.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	197,931	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,520	0.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,931	3.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr 2010	2,928	-2.5
Merchandise Exports - Apr 2010	2,328	2.1
Retail Sales - Apr 2010	4,841	-0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - May 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.6	-0.1
Vancouver	1.1	0.2
Victoria	0.2	-0.1
Canada	1.4	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	May 2010	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,479	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,293	-0.4
Unemployed - BC	187	3.3
		Apr 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.5	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.1	8.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 30/2010	Jul 1/2009
Prime Business Rate	2.50	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.60	3.75
- 5 year	5.89	5.85
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 30/2010	Jun 30/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0606	1.1625
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9393	0.8598
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May 2010	% change on one year ago
BC	828.89	4.9
Canada	815.69	2.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census News

The 2011 Census will consist of the same eight questions that appeared on the 2006 Census short-form questionnaire. And that's it.

The information previously collected by the mandatory long-form census questionnaire will be collected as part of the new voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS questionnaire will include questions on language, immigration, Aboriginal peoples, mobility, ethnicity, education, labour, income and housing. It will exclude the question asking for consent to release personal census information to Library and Archives Canada after 92 years as this is only required by the census.

The NHS will be conducted within four weeks of the May 2011 Census. Approximately, 4.5 million households will receive the NHS questionnaire, up from the 2.9 million households that would have received the census mandatory long-form questionnaire. Statistics Canada will conduct and release the results of this survey by applying sound methods and standards. Following the 2006 Census release schedule, the first NHS data would be released in December 2012. Statistics Canada will try to follow this schedule. However, this is a new survey so there is some uncertainty as to the length of time required to certify the data prior to release.

If you have questions, please contact Rosemary Bender at rosemary.bender@statcan.gc.ca or Peter Morrison at peter.morrison@statcan.gc.ca.

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/gazette-eng.cfm

Released this week by BC Stats

- Population Highlights, First Quarter 2010
- Business Indicators, June 2010
- Tourism Sector Monitor, June 2010

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, June 2010
- Earnings & Employment Trends, June 2010

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